

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Toshiaki Kanemitsu et al

Appln. No. : 09/638,032

Filed : August 15, 2001

For : METHOD OF PRODUCING A
ROTARY MEMBER MADE OF A
METALLIC PLATE



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) Art Unit: 3725
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) Ex: L. Larson
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9/1 Suppl.
Response
6/18/02
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TC 3100 MAIL ROOM

PRELIMINARY RESPONSE

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to an examination on the merits, applicants are submitting the following remarks to address the issues raised in the Office Action of November 27, 2002.

REMARKS

In the Office Action of November 27, 2002, the examiner stated that claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) because neither claim 1 nor claim 3 recited "that the boss and annular flat portion have substantially the same thickness." In fact they do. in claim 1, lines 15 and 16 there appears "such that the boss and annular flat portion have substantially the same thickness." Claim 3 depends from claim 1.

It is assumed that this limitation is considered by the examiner as being adsent in Neumeyer since the only basis for the rejection under 35 USC 102(b) is the lack of the noted recitation. Since this recitation is present, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 3 are not anticipated by Neumeyer

In rejecting claims 2 and 4-6, the examiner again applies Neumeyer and Cross. This combination has been discussed by applicants on a number of occasions. Consider in this